GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1917
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2016
New Licensing Policy
Maragatham Smt. K.

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to put in place an all new open acreage licensing policy and if so, the details thereof along with the potential of said policy to generate seismic data and attract the investors;
(b) whether the said policy enables to acquire geological data and understanding the geology, hydrocarbon prospectively and carving out of new exploration blocks and if so, the details thereof; and
(c) whether the production of oil and gas from domestic fields is also impacted due to implementation of the said policy and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)
(a) : Government has approved Hydrocarbon and Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP) coupled with Open Acreage Licensing Policy(OALP) and same has been notified on 30th March 2016. This policy provides for a uniform licensing system to explore and produce all hydrocarbons such as oil, gas, coal bed methane, shale oil/gas, etc. under a single licensing framework. The new policy will generate more seismic data as more area will come under exploration for which seismic data is one of the important necessities to assess the hydrocarbon potential of the area.
Open Acreage License gives freedom to investor to have access to the geo-scientific data round the year and to assess hydrocarbon potential of the area. It is a step towards "ease of doing business".
(b): Yes, the new policy will enable to acquire geological data, understanding the geology, hydrocarbon prospectivity and carving out of blocks.
As mentioned above, under OALP, the investor has the freedom to carve out the blocks of his interest.
Once the blocks are carved out, the investor will carry out seismic survey and drilling of wells which will enable us to understand the geology of the area in a better way and this will also enable the investor to assess the prospectivity of the area.
(c): No, Madam the production of Oil and Gas from presently operating domestic fields will not be impacted.
****